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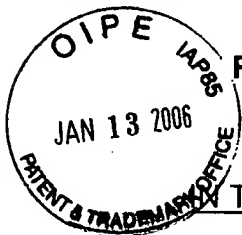
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| TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i> | | Application No. | 09/900,384 |
| | | Filing Date | July 6, 2001 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Shekhar Kirani |
| | | Art Unit | 2143 |
| | | Examiner Name | William C. Vaughn |
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| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply) | | |
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Response under 37 CFR 1.116 — Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2143

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Shekhar Kirani

Application No: 09/900,384

Filing Date: July 6, 2001

For: System and Methodology for
Optimizing Delivery of Email
Attachments for Disparate Devices

Examiner: William C. Vaughn

Art Unit: 2143

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SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the telephone interview conducted December 14, 2005, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on:

December 15, 2005

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12/15/05
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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In an online messaging system supporting transmission of attachments, a method for automatically processing messages containing attachments, the method comprising:

specifying a preference for formatting attachments that accompany messages;
receiving a particular message having a particular attachment;

detecting an intended recipient's receiving device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the intended recipient to retrieve the particular message;

responsive to detecting the intended recipient's receiving device and responsive to identifying the particular attachment as exceeding capabilities of an ~~an~~ the intended recipient's receiving device, removing the particular attachment from the particular message and inserting a link into the particular message, said link capable of referencing the particular attachment that has been removed;

delivering the particular message to the intended recipient; and

in response to invocation of the link by the intended recipient, retrieving a copy of the particular attachment that is automatically formatted based on the specified preference.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preference is associated with a particular user.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preference is associated with a particular device of a user.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said online messaging system comprises an e-mail messaging system.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment includes media objects.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said media objects comprise selected ones of audio content, video content, images, and documents.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said preference includes specifying that attachments which comprise images be formatted to a particular resolution.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said preference includes specifying that attachments which comprise images be transformed from one file format to another.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving a particular message includes:
 - receiving the particular message at an SMTP server.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of removing the particular attachment occurs at said SMTP server.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of removing the particular attachment occurs after processing by the SMTP server.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular message includes a MIME attachment.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said MIME attachment includes media objects.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said MIME attachment includes digital images.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said link comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) referencing said attachment that has been removed.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the copy of the particular attachment is automatically formatted when a request is received to retrieve the particular attachment.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the copy of the particular attachment is automatically formatted when the particular attachment is removed from the particular message.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein copies of attachments that are removed are stored in a network repository.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said formatting includes converting objects within an attachment from one format to another type of format.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said formatting includes decreasing the size of objects within an attachment.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said decreasing the size of objects includes transforming the objects to a lower resolution.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said decreasing the size of objects includes transforming the objects from color to monochromatic.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein formatted copies of objects within the particular attachment are stored in a network repository.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said network repository is accessible by a Web browser for shared access among multiple participants.

25. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular attachment includes JPEG-formatted digital images.

26. (Currently amended) In an online system, a method for providing digital images to target devices, the method comprising:

receiving a message having one or more attached objects;

detecting an intended recipient's receiving device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the intended recipient to retrieve the message;

responsive to detecting the intended recipient's receiving device and responsive to identifying the objects as exceeding capabilities of an ~~an~~ the intended recipient's receiving device, detaching said objects from said message and automatically transforming copies of said objects to a resolution fidelity that is more useful to said target devices;

for each detached object, generating a reference allowing retrieval of a transformed copy of the detached object; and

delivering the message to the target devices, the message including said generated reference for each detached object.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said transforming step includes converting copies of said objects to another type of format.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said transforming step includes decreasing the size of the copies of said objects.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of decreasing the size of said objects includes transforming the objects to a lower fidelity.

30. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein transformed copies of said objects are stored in a network repository.

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said objects comprise digital images.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said digital images are stored in JPEG format.

33. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said reference includes a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for referencing a transformed copy of a detached object.

34-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) An e-mail system for providing e-mail having attachments, the system comprising:

an e-mail server for:

receiving a particular e-mail message having an attachment, the particular e-mail message being addressed to a recipient having a target device capable of receiving e-mail, the attachment including one or more objects, and

detecting the target device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the recipient to retrieve the e-mail message;

an attachment processing module for replacing the attachment with at least one reference responsive to detecting the target device and responsive to identifying the attachment as exceeding capabilities of the target device;

a transformation module for transforming the objects of the attachment to a desired format, based on capabilities of the target device; and

a retrieval module allowing retrieval of the transformed objects, in response to invocation of at least one reference.

47. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the attachment of the particular e-mail message comprises a MIME attachment.

48. (Original) The system of claim 47, wherein the MIME attachment includes one or more digital images.

49. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein said e-mail server comprises an SMTP server.

50. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein said attachment processing module operates as a plug-in module to said e-mail server.

51. (Currently amended) In an online messaging system supporting transmission of attachments, a method for automatically processing messages containing attachments, the method comprising:

specifying a preference for formatting attachments that accompany messages;

receiving a particular message having a particular attachment;

detecting an intended recipient's receiving device, wherein the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the intended recipient to retrieve the particular message;

responsive to detecting the intended recipient's receiving device and responsive
to identifying the particular attachment as exceeding capabilities of ~~an~~ the intended
recipient's receiving device, removing the particular attachment from the particular
message and inserting a copy of the particular attachment that is automatically
formatted based on the specified preference; and
delivering the particular message to an intended recipient.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank Examiner for conducting the telephone interview regarding the above-identified application on December 14, 2005.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-33 and 46-51 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 26, 46, and 51 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Examiner rejected claims 1-33 and 46-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/72534 A1 (Rabe-Hesketh et al) and WO 01/01663 A1 (Gabrielsson et al).

As correctly stated in the Office action, Rabe-Hesketh fails to disclose or suggest that the removing of a particular attachment is "responsive to identifying the particular attachment as **exceeding capabilities of an intended recipient's receiving device.**" The Office action combined Rabe-Hesketh with Gabrielsson to show this feature.

Gabrielsson is directed at a method of organizing incoming electronic messages for a user who can access her messages via at least two different types of access environments. Specifically, in Gabrielsson, the decision to "thin" an electronic message is based on predefined user preferences (Gabrielsson, Fig. 3; p. 13, ll. 20-27), such that a separate message version is created for each type of access environment (Gabrielsson, p. 9, ll. 14-17). Thus, in Gabrielsson, if the user preferences are specified as described with reference to Figure 5 and the user accesses the messages via an Ethernet connection using a Netscape client, a message would be presented to the user in its original format (Gabrielsson, p. 13, ll. 28-32), even if the message includes an

extraordinary multimedia attachment that exceeds the capabilities of the user's access environment.

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites "removing of a particular attachment" "detecting an intended recipient's receiving device, wherein **the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the intended recipient to retrieve the particular message.**" In other words, the predetermined criteria that triggers "thinning" in Gabrielsson is different from a condition that invokes an operation of "removing of a particular attachment" in claim 1.

Thus, Gabrielsson, whether considered separately or in combination with Rabe-Hesketh, fails to disclose or suggest "removing of a particular attachment" "detecting an intended recipient's receiving device, wherein **the detecting is performed dynamically, during a request from the intended recipient to retrieve the particular message,**" as recited in claim 1.

Because the combination of Gabrielsson and Rabe-Hesketh fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1, claim 1, its dependent claims are patentable and should be allowed.

Claims 26, 46, and 51 are patentable and should be allowed for at least the reasons articulated with respect to claim 1.


Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Elena Dreszer at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit
account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 12-15-05



Elena B. Dreszer
Reg. No. 55,128

Customer No. 08791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(408) 720-8300